

**Amended Claims – Clean**

39 (amended). A method for genetically engineering a cell for ligand-dependent expression of a target gene, which method comprises transducing the cell with a recombinant nucleic acid of any of claims 1 - 5 or 31 which encodes a chimeric transcription factor which stimulates, in a ligand-dependent manner, the transcription of a target gene operably linked to a transcription control sequence recognized by the chimeric transcription factor.

40 (amended). A method for genetically engineering a cell for ligand-dependent expression of a target gene, which method comprises transducing the cell with a recombinant nucleic acid of claim 6 which encodes a chimeric transcription factor which stimulates, in a ligand-dependent manner, the transcription of a target gene operably linked to a transcription control sequence recognized by the chimeric transcription factor.

49 (amended). A cell containing (a) a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a chimeric transcription factor which comprises a p65 domain, a DNA binding domain and a ligand binding domain comprising or derived from a progesterone receptor domain, and (b) a target gene construct which comprises a target gene operably linked to a transcription control sequence which contains one or more copies of a DNA sequence recognized by the DNA binding domain of the chimeric transcription factor, the cell expressing its target gene in a ligand-dependent manner, the ligand being progesterone or an analog or mimic thereof.

50 (amended). A cell containing (a) a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a chimeric transcription factor which comprises a p65 domain and a tetR domain which binds to a recognized DNA sequence in the presence of its ligand, and (b) a target gene construct which comprises a target gene operably linked to a transcription control sequence which contains one or more copies of a DNA sequence recognized by the tetR domain of the chimeric transcription factor, the cell expressing its target gene in a ligand-dependent manner, the ligand being tetracycline, doxycycline or an analog or mimic thereof.

51 (amended). A cell containing (a) a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a chimeric transcription factor which comprises a p65 domain and an ecdysone receptor domain which binds to a DNA binding protein comprising or derived from the peptide sequence of an RXR protein, and (b) a target gene construct which comprises a target gene operably linked to a transcription control sequence which contains one or more copies of a DNA sequence recognized by the RXR, the cell expressing its target gene in a ligand dependent manner, the ligand being ecdysone or an analog or mimic thereof.